IN THE HIGH COURT OF GUJARAT AT AHMEDABAD

SPECIAL CIVIL APPLICATION No 3429 of 2002

For Approval and Signature:

Hon'ble MR.JUSTICE R.P.DHOLAKIA

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1. Whether Reporters of Local Papers may be allowed to see the judgements? : NO

2. To be referred to the Reporter or not? : NO

3. Whether Their Lordships wish to see the fair copy of the judgement? : NO

4. Whether this case involves a substantial question of law as to the interpretation of the Constitution of India, 1950 of any Order made thereunder? : NO

5. Whether it is to be circulated to the Civil Judge? : NO

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RAJESH @ RAJU PARAGBHAI DHODIYA PATEL

Versus

STATE OF GUJARAT

Appearance:

1. Special Civil Application No. 3429 of 2002

MS BANNA DAGGA FOR MR AR SHAIKH for Petitioner No. 1

MR SJ DAVE, AGP for Respondent No. 1-3

CORAM : MR.JUSTICE R.P.DHOLAKIA

Date of decision: 10/05/2002

ORAL JUDGEMENT

By means of filing this petition, the petitioner has challenged the order of detention dated 13-2-2002 passed by the Police Commissioner, Surat City and he has been branded as a dangerous person.

2. It is a settled principle of law that in order to bring a person within the expression "dangerous person" as defined in clause (c) of section 2 of the Gujarat Prevention of Anti-Social Activities Act, 1985 (for short `the Act of 1985'), there should be positive materials to indicate that such person is habitual of committing or attempting to commit or abetting the commission of offences which are punishable under Chapter XVI or XVII of Chapter V of the Arms Act and that single or isolated act falling under the said Chapters cannot be characterised as a habitual acts as envisaged in section 2(c) of the PASA Act. Further, besides a person being a dangerous person, his activities should also fall within the ambit of expression `public order'. A distinction has to be drawn between the `law and order' and `maintenance of public order'. A reference may be made of M.J.Shaikh V. M.M. Mehta, Commissioner of Police & Ors., reported in 1995 (2) GLR 1268.

3. Heard learned advocate for the petitioner and the learned AGP for the State. Also perused the record. Learned advocate for the petitioner has submitted that the detention order has been passed relying upon three offences registered against the petitioner under the provisions of Indian Penal Code. Drawing my attention towards page 27 of the compilation, Ms.Banna Datta has contented that when the order of detention was passed, the detenu was in judicial custody which aspect ought to have been considered by the authority while passing the detention order. In this connection, she has relied upon the case of Amritlal and Other Vs. Union Govt. Through Secy., Ministry of Finance and Others, AIR 2000 S.C. 3675 wherein it was held at Head note as under:

> "Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (46 of 1988), S.3--Satisfaction of detaining authority--"Likelihood of detenu moving an application for bail"--not sufficient--It is different from "Likelihood to be released on bail"".

4. It seems that there is non-application of mind on the part of detaining authority in passing the detention order as the detenu was in judicial custody when the order of detention was passed which aspect has not been considered by the authority and hence, in view of the judgment rendered in Amritlal (supra), the continued detention of the detenu is illegal and the same cannot be sustained.

5. The petition is allowed. The impugned order of detention dated 13-2-2002 passed against the detenu is hereby quashed and set aside. The detenu Rajesh @ Raju Paragbhai Dhodiya Patel is ordered to be set at liberty forthwith, if not required in any other case. Rule is made absolute accordingly with no order as to costs. Direct service is permitted.

(R.P.DHOLAKIA,J.)

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